

GIGANTIC NESTS.

WONDERFUL MOUNDS BUILT BY THE MALLEE BIRD OF AUSTRALIA.

They are as big as a City Block and are Occupied by vast numbers of Feathered Families—The Young Scramble Out of Their Shells as Best They May.

The mallee hen of Australia lays its eggs in a huge nest. The nest is really an artificial mound of gigantic proportions for the size of its maker, and the purpose it is to serve. The artificial mound is a co-operation incubator. It is built by many pairs of birds, male and female working alike to construct it. These same pairs or flocks of birds annually repair and enlarge the queer looking cone which rises up like a turret dome from the level prairie.

Sometimes these tunnels attain a height of fully fifteen in the perpendicular, with a radius of equal measurement. Many of these nests have



A NEST AS BIG AS A CITY LOT.

measured as much as 50 yards, or 150 feet around their base. That would give the largest one measured a diameter of about fifty feet. These mound nests are entered through a sort of funnel cavity at the top of the cone.

The hens of all the building and repairing pairs lay in this immense nest. The eggs are deposited about six feet below the surface. While each hen lays her egg in the family mound, no hen drops her egg closer than twenty inches of that of her neighbor. These eggs are deposited in a cavity made for it wherein it is placed in a vertical position, carefully covered, and the surface is carefully smoothed over by the hen before she quits the nest. Contrary to the usual practice of the bird and fowl species, these mallee hens lay at night instead of in the day. Several days elapse also between the dropping of two eggs.

The eggs of the mallee hen are out of all proportion to her size. They are as large as those of a goose, and of large hens, are very much larger.

The eggs thus laid and covered in this great sand oven in the hot districts are never again disturbed by the hens. The eggs are hatched by the heat the sun bakes into the soil where they lay. It has never been known how the young chicks are excavated from their egg grave, for the eggs are deposited fully six inches below the surface, and the hardening rains do not aid their exit very much.

The hen is so very shy and vigilant that no one is able to study her maternal and domestic habits with satisfaction. As she lays her egg at night, and transacts most of her affairs in the night watch so that no naturalist or curious individual can ferret her out, possible she steals to her expected brood under cover of night also, and gives them the parental unearthing which they must surely need after the pipping of the eggshell.

Bush naturalists have been curious to know how this peculiar fowl builds its nest. The birds have been seen working at it, and the mounds have been inspected, but the piling of the dirt is not from the immediate vicinity, for that is undisturbed. Small springs and the like enter into the plastic masonry, which stands storms and heavy rains, when they do fall, without serious injury.

These huge cones stand for years, to be annually nested in by the same flock which originally constructed the family incubator. When detected the hens emit a pitiful little cackle, and flutter away like a wounded innocent. The young of a covey either root under the sand or hide behind some mound or object of a friendly color.

Victoria's Oldest Subject.

In a little cabin at Owen Sound, Canada, lives Queen Victoria's oldest subject. He is "Daddy" Hall, and he claims 114 years. He is a half-breed negro and Indian. He was a scout in the war of 1812. He is remarkable as the man to whom nature vouchsafed a new set of teeth and a new growth of hair at the age of ninety-five, when his first supply left him. He has been married four times, and is the father of nineteen children.

Bold Burglars.

Burglars recently robbed the general store of John D. Davis, near the Ohio line, at Jamestown, Penn., of about \$200 worth of goods. The thieves then retreated to the United Presbyterian Church, where they built a fire, using the Psalm Books for fuel, and then cooked a meal.

In Weston, W. Va., there is the youngest page in the world. He is Robert Chidister, and he is five years old. He has been appointed page to the Circuit Court.

Royal Eyes.

Cleopatra had large, deep-blue eyes. Frederick the Great had large blue eyes with the luster of polished steel. The Emperor Nero was excessively near-sighted and used a small gem in the shape of a lens to see at a distance.

Mary Stuart was not exactly cross-eyed but one eye moved more than the other and gave the Queen that appearance.

Elizabeth of England had clear, liquid blue eyes and always glanced sideways at the person with whom she was conversing.

OLD GRADDOLES HAD APHASIA

A Demonstration in Nervous Pathology That Cost \$8.40.

Old Hardy Graddoles, who had limped around in the Teton Basin for years on a muscle-tied foot, at last wearied of the wobbly exertion, went down to Salt Lake to have the defective member treated. He came back after an absence of a month, and his neighbors gathered about him to hear the strain, tales which he would have to tell of experience in a great city. He described the Temple and the Tabernacle and the Proby Building, and quite enchanted them.

"What was the finest thing you see?" finally asked St. Redee, in recapitulation.

"Well, men," said Hardy, "the best—really the best—thing I see was a fellow in the hospital. He was a fellow, an' I heard all about him. He had aphasia," speaking the last word with a proud deliberation, Redee looked at Watts, and Watts glared intently at Red Pete Rubble. The last mentioned broke the spell.

"What's that? A for'n country, ain't it? Seems I heard of it afore in a jingly."

"Naw," said Hardy, scornfully. "It ain't a place—it's a thing. Somethin' out o' gear, you know."

But they did not know. They were even worse confounded than before.

"Like a Russian thistle, mebbe," said Pete, dubiously, still clinging to the geographical theory.

"No such. I then fergets how to talk or somethin'."

"Deef an' dumb man? I seen—"

"Naw, Naw. Man that kin talk fergets how. Fergets everything."

"It can't be did," declared Pete with decision.

Hardy looked at him pityingly.

"Dog it all, I say it kin; I seen it. Here—I'll show you. Who's got a \$10 note?"

Among them they got together \$8.40, and Hardy said that he could illustrate to some extent, perhaps, with that amount.

"Now," he said, taking possession of the money, "you all know that you give me this money, don't you? They did and said so."

"Well," rolling his eyes and assuming a rigid attitude, "I've forgot it. Ferget all about it. That's aphasia."

"Humph!" grunted Rubble. "Seems a fool of a thing, don't it? Gimme my \$2.40."

Hardy gazed at him in a stony, vacant way.

"Give me my \$2.40," Rubble repeated with some show of sternness.

"I—I—seems like I heard somethin' about a sum o' money somes'ers," Hardy responded, in a hesitating way.

"There's a dollar and a half comin' to me," Redee uttered fiercely.

"Gents," said Hardy, sorrowfully, "I can't remember it. I'm sorry. I don't know what you're talkin' about. I've got that there aphasia."

They gathered around him, clamoring for their funds. They now began to understand. But they could not convince him.

"I'm sorry, as I say, gents," Hardy said, meekly. "But it's aphasia. It ain't my fault. On the subject of any money you might 've give me—an' mebbe you'd give me some, 'praps—my mind is like a blank sheet o' paper. I am a poor victim of a peo-nial disorder, as you might say. Good-day."

He was a man of six feet, four inches, and, although along in years, he had been the hardest and best fighter in the Basin, even in his crippled condition. They looked at him gloomily, therefore, as he walked away, and no man dared say him nay. Only Red Pete Rubble expressed the general sentiment when he made certain feeling and torrid remarks which imparted to the world at large the fact that he was utterly disgusted with science in all its forms.



Harry Downton (to country sweetheart)—Miss Milkyweigh, do you play and sing "When the Cows Are in the Corn?"

Miss Milkyweigh—Lord bless you, no. I get the dogs and chase 'em out.

A Political Trip. Should it be your own ambition to write a humorous verse, pick out some ancient subject and express in language terse. The editor may reject it, if the meter's out of joint; but if you fashion it like this, he'll surely see the point.

A Lapse. Employment Agent—"See here! How is this? You stayed two weeks in your last place. How did that happen?" Domestic—"Sure, O! dunno. O! must 've overslept meself."—Now York Weekly.

Escaped by a Hair's Breadth. Dubby (would-be novelist)—"I've just finished a new novel. If you have a moment to spare I'll show you the proofs." Witty—"Oh, never mind about the proofs, I'll take your word for it."—Chicago Record.

Ellen Terry's Parrot. Miss Ellen Terry's parrot, Mr. Pigott, is known familiarly as Nell. Miss Terry had acquired it for the sake of its green hue, its mauve head, scarlet beak and pink breast, and it had just arrived, but its accomplishments were an absolutely unknown quantity. Sir Henry Irving called, and Miss Terry said, "This is a marvellous bird; talk beautifully!" and placed it on Sir Henry's finger. Quoth the bird instantly, "Henry!" and its fame was secured. It only knew two words, and this was one of them.

To Clean Shedland shawls dip in a bath of boiled soap, slipping gently through the hands. Plunge into clear water and pin on a sheet to dry.

Engalant Delaware. The Supreme Court of Delaware has decided that women cannot become a law student, nor practice in that State.

Bleaching the Hair. It is an unsettled question whether bleaching the hair leads to softening of the brain, or softening of the brain leads to bleaching the hair.

Credence Oil to Kindle Fires. The Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railway Company for some time has been experimenting with crude oil for kindling fires in locomotives in place of using cordwood, and the results obtained have been so satisfactory that it will hereafter be used on the whole line. During the month of November, 1897, at the company's shops, which are located at Washington, Ind., and Chillicothe, Ohio, 1,226 fires were started with crude oil at a cost of \$17.32, or 1.41 cents per fire. To have started the same number of fires with wood would have cost \$306, or 24.96 per fire. This represents a saving of \$288.68.

THE IDOL OF HAVANA

THIS BULL FIGHTER A GREATER MAN THAN OLD BLANCO.

A Spectacle to Cause One Who is Not a Devotee of the National Sport of Spain to Rub His Eyes—When the Great Mazzan-tine Dies.

Four privates of the Orden Publico Corps, armed with sword and revolver, reinforced the solitary little policeman who usually mounds up and down in front of the Hotel Inglaterra, in Havana, Cuba, a few nights ago, writes a war correspondent, and the American colony began to whisper that trouble was brewing among the volunteers. The wisdom of this precaution became apparent when, during the dinner hour, it was seen that the gendarmes were only aided by the most heroic exertions to save the hotel from being carried by storm by a mob, whose object, however, was not obviously of a pacific character as to quite disarm the apprehensions of even the most nervous of the guests.

By the time the British Consul, who is invariably the first man at the table, had taken his seat, all the wide doors and windows of the restaurant opening on the street were choked with an excited throng, in which soldiers, sailors, volunteers, smart young clerks, respectable elderly citizens and professional mendicants struggled on terms of perfect equality for front places.

The attention of all these was riveted on a table in a remote corner of the restaurant, and it was noticeable that the attitude of the crowd was not that of mere vulgar curiosity, but rather of deep, reverential awe. I noticed in the front rank at the door two blind beggars from Obispo street, who, on yielding their places to the pressure of the crowd behind, vanished with faces illumined with a "now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace," expression.

Some of the more enterprising enthusiasts dodged through the cordon and gained the rear of the restaurant, whence they enjoyed an unobstructed view, but those who were speedily discovered and hustled out by the police. New and then the gendarmes would clear the sidewalk with a sudden charge, after which the whole squad invariably lined up in the doorway and quite lost themselves in reverential gazing until rudely aroused to action by the surging of the crowd.

The cause of all this commotion was a tall, powerfully built, middle-aged man, with a smoothly shaven face, a laughing eye and a queer little wisp of hair sprouting from the back of his head, and flattened down in a black coil that stood out in startling relief against the shiny white expanse of a bald pate. At his table sat a ring of Spanish officers in full uniform, and without that a second and a third ring, all of whom kept silence, with eyes reverentially fixed on the great man. When he smiled, which he occasionally condescended to do, they all smiled, and when he spoke, which he usually did with his mouth full, they all obsequiously nodded assent. In the circle were generals, colonels, majors and captains, bedizen with flaming orders and medals, and showing, every man of them, that the occasion was one of the proudest moments of his life. It was perfectly apparent that in the eyes of all the big man with a funny little wisp of hair was a personage of infinitely greater importance than the Captain General.

On his part the great man accepted all this adulation with the air of the most deliciously affable condescension. Occasionally he even deigned to bestow a word on the proprietor of the hotel, who stood humbly behind his chair to receive and present with his own hands the various dishes brought by the waiters.

One officer, evidently an old acquaintance, was honored above his brothers, for, as he entered the room, the hero saw him, and springing up and striding dramatically forward, clasped him in his arms with such fervor as to sadly disarrange his little wisp of hair, whereupon, on his attention having been called to the fact by half a dozen admirers, he wet his fingers and carefully plastered it upon his pate before resuming his seat.

Marveling who the man could be who commanded the obedience of the highest officers in the Spanish army, I demanded information from my waiter. The fellow gave me a look of undisguised contempt for my ignorance, and then, with a smile of pity, whispered, behind his hand in awestruck accents, "Mazzanini, the bull fighter!"

"A great man?" I asked.

"The greatest in the world!"

An American Negro Abroad. The highest grade of negro is the private car porter. He was such a negro, young and with many fine mannerisms and some money, who decided to take a trip to Europe. In London he made the acquaintance of several English-bred negroes. By these he was shown the sights and introduced into society. One evening he was invited to "sit in" a little poker game. He was well acquainted with the game as played at home, and did not hesitate to play. His limited acquaintance with English money cost him several good pots. At last he got four aces and knew exactly where he was, for four aces have their value the world over. His opponent "skinned" his hand carefully after cards had been "dotted" and said: "Ah! just bet you a pound, Mischan Johnson." "Well," said the American, "Ah don't rightly know how much a pound is, but Ah'll just raise you a ton."

To Clean Shedland shawls dip in a bath of boiled soap, slipping gently through the hands. Plunge into clear water and pin on a sheet to dry.

Engalant Delaware. The Supreme Court of Delaware has decided that women cannot become a law student, nor practice in that State.

Bleaching the Hair. It is an unsettled question whether bleaching the hair leads to softening of the brain, or softening of the brain leads to bleaching the hair.

Credence Oil to Kindle Fires. The Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railway Company for some time has been experimenting with crude oil for kindling fires in locomotives in place of using cordwood, and the results obtained have been so satisfactory that it will hereafter be used on the whole line. During the month of November, 1897, at the company's shops, which are located at Washington, Ind., and Chillicothe, Ohio, 1,226 fires were started with crude oil at a cost of \$17.32, or 1.41 cents per fire. To have started the same number of fires with wood would have cost \$306, or 24.96 per fire. This represents a saving of \$288.68.

TWO ROYAL CHILDREN.

Prince Carol and Princess Elizabeth Consolers of Roumania's Queen.

Among Queen Victoria's numerous great-grandchildren are the little Prince Carol and Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, whose mother, the wife of the Crown Prince, was Princess Marie, the eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Coburg. At the time of the Jubilee the dangerous illness of the Crown Prince prevented Prince Carol and his sister from going to England. Instead, they were entrusted to the care of the Queen of Roumania.

Since the Queen of Roumania, better known to the world as "Carmen Sylva," lost her only child she was always unhappy until the son and daughter of her husband's heir came to console her in her sorrow. Her Majesty is never so happy as when the Prince Carol and Princess Elizabeth are in her exclusive charge, and under the influence of the little companions, her attacks of deep melancholy have entirely disappeared.

Prince Carol is a manly boy of great mental ability. His most striking characteristic is his devotion to his tiny sister. The Princess Elizabeth resembles her mother, who was the handsomest of the four Coburg sisters. She is named for her grandmother.

When the royal children were last in England on a visit, they lived at Osborne Cottage, on the Isle of Wight, with their little cousins of Hesse. The illustration shows them in the national costume.

Women's Brass Band.

A musical organization which is meeting with great success in the State of Oregon, is the Ladies' Brass Band of Heppner. Its membership is made up entirely of the fair sex, and includes the maids and matrons of the most prominent families in the town, whose social standing is pitched with the best. The band was organized a year ago. It was to be a self-supporting organization entirely. As soon as organization was perfected ways and means were canvassed by which funds could be raised for uniforms and instruments. It was decided to give a concert, which proved a grand success financially, at which the band made its first appearance in public. The audience mildly enthused over their playing—it was so much better than was expected. The ladies' band was a great success. Then when the Presidential campaign opened they were at once in demand. The Ladies' Brass Band became the fashion, and no candidate ever thought of making a speech in their neighborhood without first having secured their services as an attraction. Their popularity led them into church socials, picnics, etc., until now they are famous throughout the entire State.

Mary Anderson Before the Camera. Miss Frances Benjamin Johnston, who has just come home from Europe, has brought with her a series of interesting pictures. She spent several months in out-of-the-way parts of England, and visited the village of Broadway, where Mrs. Mary Anderson-Navarro's home is. Mrs. Navarro is an old friend of Miss Johnston's mother, who was a dramatic critic in Baltimore where Mary Anderson made her debut as Juliet. For one whole day she posed before the young photographer's camera, though she had not been photographed more than once or twice since she left the stage. The trunks that hold her stage wardrobe were dragged from their attic corner, and Juliet, Perdita, Rosalind and Galatea lived again for the camera's benefit. The wonderful Navarro baby was photographed in his beautiful mother's arms, and Miss Johnston declares that Mrs. Navarro is really much more beautiful than Mary Anderson ever was.

A Queen's Circus Riding.

Queen Henriette of Belgium, by birth an Austrian Archduchess, continues, in spite of her snow-white hair and rank as a grandmother, to occupy her time with circus riding. A year ago she gave in the riding school of the royal palace at Brussels, a semi-public performance, in which she and her daughter Clementine put their horses through all kinds of fancy paces and trick riding with the skill of professionals. They leaped their horses through burning hoops and over flaming hedges, and her majesty jumped a pet horse over a dinner table covered with flowers and lighted candles. Then she drove a team of twenty-in-hand herself, mounted on her favorite mare.

Bachelor Maids Form a Trust. A number of young unmarried women from the best families of Cape May, N. J., have banded themselves together in an organization which they have named "The Bachelor Maids' Club." Its object is mutual protection of their interests along matrimonial lines. They have adopted a constitution and by-laws, with penalties for violation. One rule, which was adopted by a majority of one after a heated debate, is that no member can accept an offer of marriage without the unanimous consent of the society. A social tea will be given the members once a month. Young men generally regarded as good catches will be entertained at these functions.

Hair Brushes. Hair brushes should never be left with the bristles up. They are admirable dust collectors. Furthermore, in these days of pretty and inexpensive toilet utensils there are few women who have not brushes with more or less ornamental backs.

Crede Oil to Kindle Fires. The Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern Railway Company for some time has been experimenting with crude oil for kindling fires in locomotives in place of using cordwood, and the results obtained have been so satisfactory that it will hereafter be used on the whole line. During the month of November, 1897, at the company's shops, which are located at Washington, Ind., and Chillicothe, Ohio, 1,226 fires were started with crude oil at a cost of \$17.32, or 1.41 cents per fire. To have started the same number of fires with wood would have cost \$306, or 24.96 per fire. This represents a saving of \$288.68.

Across China on Bicycles. The three English bicyclists who left London in July, 1896, for a ride across Europe and Asia have just arrived in Shanghai, having traversed 14,222 miles. They say the roads are very poor in the Celestial Empire, and that they were obliged to carry their wheels hundreds of miles on their backs. Armed with voluminous passports and red visiting cards several inches long, with their names in Chinese characters, they went from town to town, interviewing mandarins and missionaries, and living on pork and rice. They penetrated China from upper Burma. Throughout the journey an officer rode ahead, giving orders at all military posts that their safety should be looked after. The worst the cyclists had to contend against was the desire of the Celestials to show what they could do in the way of cycling.

Umbrella Handles. To have a small purse attached to the umbrella handle, instead of a tassel, is the Winter girl's newest wrinkle.

It has been decided to build the new capitol of Pennsylvania of white marble, to be quarried in the State.

Russia the Home of Platinum. Platinum is worth not quite half as much as gold, weight for weight, and the product of that metal comes almost entirely from Russia, where it is found in the southern Ural Mountains. At present the increasing demand for platinum has caused a sharp advance in the price of the metal and a corresponding increase in its production.

Postage Stamps. The various countries of the world now use 13,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

The Haitian General's Glass Eye. A Haitian General having lost an eye in battle sent to Paris for an artificial one. The maker sent in return one of his best. Shortly after the General returned it, with the remark that the eye was too yellow, and recalled to his mind the Spanish flag, adding at the same time that he would wear only an eye having the colors of his own country. The maker thereupon made one with red and green predominating (these being the Haitian colors). This so pleased the General that instead of wearing the eye as originally intended, he added it to his collection of medals.

Faithless Rewarder. His first love's age was just twenty-five. When at twenty in marriage he sought her; He failed; but again at forty did strive, And this time he married her daughter.

Left by the Wayside. "Is Miss Passy single from choice?" "Yes; all the men she knows have chosen other girls."

The Haitian General's Glass Eye. A Haitian General having lost an eye in battle sent to Paris for an artificial one. The maker sent in return one of his best. Shortly after the General returned it, with the remark that the eye was too yellow, and recalled to his mind the Spanish flag, adding at the same time that he would wear only an eye having the colors of his own country. The maker thereupon made one with red and green predominating (these being the Haitian colors). This so pleased the General that instead of wearing the eye as originally intended, he added it to his collection of medals.

Postage Stamps. The various countries of the world now use 13,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

The Haitian General's Glass Eye. A Haitian General having lost an eye in battle sent to Paris for an artificial one. The maker sent in return one of his best. Shortly after the General returned it, with the remark that the eye was too yellow, and recalled to his mind the Spanish flag, adding at the same time that he would wear only an eye having the colors of his own country. The maker thereupon made one with red and green predominating (these being the Haitian colors). This so pleased the General that instead of wearing the eye as originally intended, he added it to his collection of medals.

Faithless Rewarder. His first love's age was just twenty-five. When at twenty in marriage he sought her; He failed; but again at forty did strive, And this time he married her daughter.

Left by the Wayside. "Is Miss Passy single from choice?" "Yes; all the men she knows have chosen other girls."

A KITCHEN ON RAIL.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A NOVEL EXPERIMENT.

The Dominion Has Constructed a Commissary on Wheels Capable of Providing Rations for More Than a Thousand Soldiers in Case of War.

The Canadian government has just had built, in accordance with designs furnished by the military authorities, a car that will play an important part in any future warfare in which Canadian soldiers take part. The car is a gigantic kitchen, capable of furnishing meals, on a pinch, to as many as 1,500 soldiers without overtaxing its capacity. The immense extent of territory which it would be necessary to protect in case of a general war has been for some time a source of uneasiness to the Canadian government. It has been evident that the sparsely settled country, so different from the thickly populated states on this side of the border, would be a very weak basis for a line of battle. While the United States would have rich foraging should supplies run short, the British would find only barren hills and empty wastes in a large part of the region over which they would be spread to guard the frontier. To provide against this emergency it was decided to build a car that would be a gigantic kitchen on wheels, and to make a careful test of its capacity for feeding troops with a view to ascertaining how many of such cars would be required in time of war to feed the entire military force of the Dominion.

The car is now finished and experiments will begin at once. A train is to be dispatched over the Canadian Pacific railway from one side of the continent to the other. On this train there will be a body of soldiers which will depend for subsistence entirely upon the rolling kitchen that accompanies them. Meals will be served according to a carefully prepared schedule, and the officer in command will take notes of the incidents of the trip, in order that the government may have the fullest possible data to guide them in their calculations to determine the value of the idea.

The car from which "Tommy Atkins" will draw his sustenance in future fights—and on excursions and field days in time of peace as well—is known as commissary car, No. 1899. It is an unusually large one, being longer than the ordinary baggage car, from which it differs in construction by having a vestibule at each end. The supply room is entered from the front. Here all is in readiness for the coming experiment; there is room in the car for supplies capable of sustaining 1,600 men for a period of ten days.

From the store room entrance is obtained to the kitchen, which is the most interesting feature of the car. Down one side runs the range, which is in reality two ranges, with a total length of twenty-two feet. Everything is up to date in construction and planned on a large scale. It would be beyond the strength of one man to lift the immense copper kettles in which will be stewed the beef that "Tommy" is supposed to revel in, and they are to be raised by means of derricks and chains fitted above the stoves. With these appliances the kettles can be manipulated with the greatest ease, and swung over to the tables, ready for the distribution of their contents.

Opposite the stoves is a gigantic water tank, capable of holding 2,500 gallons of water, and directly above the stove is another tank. In the rear of the car are sinks, with hot and cold water, and the various appliances necessary in preparing meals on a large scale. Yet only five men are required to operate this plant. The cooks have been carefully selected, and no stone has been left unturned to make the experiment a success.

The car is set upon double trucks of six wheels each, and is constructed with a view to securing the smoothest of running. It would not seem to be an easy matter for the cooks to handle huge cauldrons filled with scalding soup while the train is running at full speed, but with a proper use of the appliances provided it is thought that no mishap will occur. The greatest difficulty, however, will be experienced at such times. When stops are made—and several have been arranged to test the value of the car kitchen as a base of camp supply—the cooks will have an easy time.

Across China on Bicycles. The three English bicyclists who left London in July, 1896, for a ride across Europe and Asia have just arrived in Shanghai, having traversed 14,222 miles. They say the roads are very poor in the Celestial Empire, and that they were obliged to carry their wheels hundreds of miles on their backs. Armed with voluminous passports and red visiting cards several inches long, with their names in Chinese characters, they went from town to town, interviewing mandarins and missionaries, and living on pork and rice. They penetrated China from upper Burma. Throughout the journey an officer rode ahead, giving orders at all military posts that their safety should be looked after. The worst the cyclists had to contend against was the desire of the Celestials to show what they could do in the way of cycling.

Umbrella Handles. To have a small purse attached to the umbrella handle, instead of a tassel, is the Winter girl's newest wrinkle.

It has been decided to build the new capitol of Pennsylvania of white marble, to be quarried in the State.

Russia the Home of Platinum. Platinum is worth not quite half as much as gold, weight for weight, and the product of that metal comes almost entirely from Russia, where it is found in the southern Ural Mountains. At present the increasing demand for platinum has caused a sharp advance in the price of the metal and a corresponding increase in its production.

Postage Stamps. The various countries of the world now use 13,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

The Haitian General's Glass Eye. A Haitian General having lost an eye in battle sent to Paris for an artificial one. The maker sent in return one of his best. Shortly after the General returned it, with the remark that the eye was too yellow, and recalled to his mind the Spanish flag, adding at the same time that he would wear only an eye having the colors of his own country. The maker thereupon made one with red and green predominating (these being the Haitian colors). This so pleased the General that instead of wearing the eye as originally intended, he added it to his collection of medals.

Faithless Rewarder. His first love's age was just twenty-five. When at twenty in marriage he sought her; He failed; but again at forty did strive, And this time he married her daughter.

Left by the Wayside. "Is Miss Passy single from choice?" "Yes; all the men she knows have chosen other girls."

The Haitian General's Glass Eye. A Haitian General having lost an eye in battle sent to Paris for an artificial one. The maker sent in return one of his best. Shortly after the General returned it, with the remark that the eye was too yellow, and recalled to his mind the Spanish flag, adding at the same time that he would wear only an eye having the colors of his own country. The maker thereupon made one with red and green predominating (these being the Haitian colors). This so pleased the General that instead of wearing the eye as originally intended, he added it to his collection of medals.

Postage Stamps. The various countries of the world now use 13,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

The Haitian General's Glass Eye. A Haitian General having lost an eye in battle sent to Paris for an artificial one. The maker sent in return one of his best. Shortly after the General returned it, with the remark that the eye was too yellow, and recalled to his mind the Spanish flag, adding at the same time that he would wear only an eye having the colors of his own country. The maker thereupon made one with red and green predominating (these being the Haitian colors). This so pleased the General that instead of wearing the eye as originally intended, he added it to his collection of medals.

Faithless Rewarder. His first love's age was just twenty-five. When at twenty in marriage he sought her; He failed; but again at forty did strive, And this time he married her daughter.

Left by the Wayside. "Is Miss Passy single from choice?" "Yes; all the men she knows